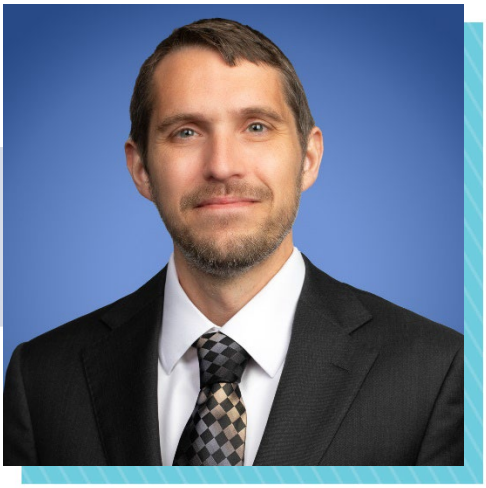
Lozano Smith
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Nicholas J. Clair

Partner



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Overview

Nicholas J. Clair is a Partner in Lozano Smith's Sacramento Office. Mr. Clair advises public agencies on facilities and business matters, governance issues, and emerging technology law, with particular expertise in artificial intelligence implementation and risk management. As a recognized AI expert, Mr. Clair helps school districts and other public agencies navigate the complex legal landscape of AI adoption, from policy development to contract negotiation. He also specializes in construction disputes, complex property transactions, governance matters, and conflicts of interest analysis.

Mr. Clair serves as general counsel to several joint powers authorities and special districts, bringing deep expertise in JPA formation, governance restructuring, and dissolution. His unique combination of traditional public agency law expertise and cutting-edge technology knowledge positions him to help clients address both current challenges and emerging opportunities.

Experience

Mr. Clair is a thought leader in AI law for public agencies, co-authoring the firm's comprehensive "AI Primer: Foundations of AI" and "AI Primer: Risks of AI" guides. He regularly advises public agencies on AI system selection and contract negotiations, particularly focusing on risk allocation for public-facing technologies and data privacy concerns. His technology practice extends to complex software licensing, intellectual property protection, FCC spectrum licensing issues, and emerging technology governance frameworks.

In his facilities and business practice, Mr. Clair handles sophisticated property acquisitions involving developer negotiations, annexation proceedings, and infrastructure reimbursement agreements. He regularly represents districts in construction disputes, guiding clients through claims processes, dispute resolution, and litigation when necessary.

Mr. Clair is a frequent presenter on AI and technology law at major California associations including the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), and Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH). His articles on AI risk management have been published in ACSA's EdCal magazine and California Special Districts magazine.

Prior to joining Lozano Smith, Mr. Clair was a Legislative Analyst for the California Special Districts Association, where he managed the Amicus Curiae Advocacy Program, drafted legal briefs, and provided legislative analysis on matters affecting special districts.

Education

Mr. Clair received his Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Mr. Clair also received a certificate of concentration in Business Law. Upon graduation from McGeorge, Mr. Clair became a member of the Roger J. Traynor Honor Society. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in International and Comparative Politics from the University of Akron.

Practices

Municipal
Facilities & Business

Education

J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of Akron

Admissions

California